

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-05 AID-05 DODE-00 HEW-04 AGRE-00
DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13 JUSE-00 NSAE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9196

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 5184

E.O. 11652:
TAGS: SNAR, MX
SUBJECT: NARCOTICS - MONITORING GOM ERADICATION PROGRAM
REF: STATE 77072

1. TO PROVIDE COVERAGE IN THE FIELD, NARCOTICS ASSISTANCE UNIT (NAU) HAS REQUESTED ITS ADVISER STAFF TO SPEND THE MAXIMUM POSSIBLE TIME IN THE FIELD BEGINNING IMMEDIATELY. BY WEEK'S END, THREE ADVISERS WILL BE VISITING FORWARD BASES IN POPPY-GROWING AREAS AND FLYING AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.
 2. WE CONCUR WITH REFTEL THAT AN INCREASED PRESENCE IS DESIRABLE FOR THE BALANCE OF THE CURRENT CAMPAIGN, BUT WE RECOMMEND AGAINST USING EVERGREEN PILOTS FOR THIS PURPOSE. EVERGREEN CONTRACT WITH GOM WILL EXPIRE MARCH 31. IN VIEW OF CONTINUED GOM VIEW THAT OPERATIONAL PERSONNEL SUCH AS PILOTS BE EMPLOYED BY GOM AND NOT BY USG, IT WOULD BE MOST AWKWARD FOR USG TO CONTRACT EVERGREEN PERSONNEL IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE CONTRACT WITH THE GOM TERMINATES.
 3. AS AN ALTERNATIVE, WE RECOMMEND USG CONTRACT WITH AVIATION ASSOCIATES INC (AAI), WHOSE PRESIDENT, JOHN
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FORD, WAS FORMERLY AN AVIATION ADVISER WITH THE NARCOTICS PROGRAM IN MEXICO AND WHO KNOWS THE PROGRAM, THE MEXICAN PERSONNEL, AND THE POPPY-GROWING AREAS. FORD INFORMS US THAT, IF ASKED, HE COULD FIELD HIMSELF AND FOUR OTHERS (DRAWN PRIMARILY FROM THOSE WHO WORKED IN CULIACAN WITH SPECTRAL CORPORATION, AND, AGAIN KNOW THE TERRAIN AND THE PEOPLE) FOR A PERIOD OF 30 DAYS AT

A COST OF ABOUT \$38,000.

4. AT A MEETING MARCH 28, EMBASSY OFFICERS DISCUSSED WITH ATTORNEY GENERAL FLORES THE NEED F AN INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF THE ERADICATION PROGRAM ON WHICH USG COULD BASE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE PROGRAM SUPPORT. FLORES READILY AGREED THAT SUCH AN ASSESSMENT BY A CONTRACTED FIRM OF TECHNICIANS WOULD SERVE BOTH PROGRAM AND POLITICAL PURPOSES, AND INVISOTED EMBASSY TO PROCEED IMMEDIATELY.

5. DEA HERE HAS OFFERED TO NAU THE SERVICES OF AN INTELLIGENCE ANALYST TO ANALYZE AND PREPARE REPORTS ON THE DATA COLLECTED BY NAU PERSONNEL AND THE CONTRACTOR RECOMMENDED ABOVE. WE APPRECIATE AND INTEND TO ACCEPT THIS OFFER UNTIL NAU IS ADEQUATELY STAFFED .

6. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT THE DEPARTMENT PROCEED IMMEDIATELY TO CONTRACT AAI TO CONDUCT AN EVALUATION OF ERADICATION PROGRAM OPERATIONS. LUCEY

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